



NEWS RELEASE

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE

1931 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Mall 3
Arlington, Virginia 22240-5291

Release Number 00-22
August 7, 2000
For External Release

Army National Guard Gets Lots of OJT at DFAS Rome

The 726th Finance Battalion of the Massachusetts Army National Guard established a vanguard partnership with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Rome Operating Location.

“Through this unique partnership, soldiers get on the job training in financial management, which is imperative to the battalion’s mission,” said Lt. Col. David H. Connolly, commander of the 726th.

The 726th deploys one detachment to DFAS Rome almost every month during the training year. While there, soldiers work closely with the civilian workforce to compute travel vouchers, pay government credit cards and disburse payments and accounting transactions. Training received and relationships established during drill weekends culminate during the annual training conducted for two weeks in the summer, when DFAS Rome’s civilian populous use more leave. “One of the benefits we see is that the soldiers of the 726th help us with our summer surge,” says David Metzgar, deputy director of Administration.

Lt. Col. Connolly says that the leadership and employees at DFAS Rome make the soldiers feel welcome and have continuously provided real-world training that has helped the battalion elevate its readiness to the highest level. During this year’s training, he presented DFAS Rome with a Commander’s Award in appreciation for its continuous training support.

Roy A. Higgins, DFAS Rome director, says the partnership is a large success. “With national security a number one priority, this partnership prepares the soldiers. A great side benefit is to have our customer, the soldier, amongst our organization throughout the year to remind us why we come to work. And, if we ever have to increase production at DFAS Rome at a moment’s notice, we can call upon the 726th for a well-trained and well-prepared workforce. This is not shared by any other DFAS location.”

According to Lt. Col. Connolly, the 726th Finance Battalion has established itself as a leader in training and capability. This working relationship has fostered other opportunities for the soldiers to train, including “Operation Golden Eagle,” conducted in Egypt. Due to this partnership with Rome, the battalion’s soldiers are now better prepared and better trained to undertake both their peacetime and wartime missions.”

###